



Municipal Transit for High School Students



**The Trustees of the HDSB are
in support of continued talks
with the City of Burlington to
develop an MOU around a free
municipal transit program for
high school students**

Free Transit for High School Students - benefits

- Reduces emissions around schools
- Reduces congestion on roads (reduces “parental taxi”)
- Increases independence/resilience in youth
- Permits students to participate in more before and after school programming and activities in the community (teams, clubs, jobs, shopping, eating, recreation, etc.)
- Encourages the use of public transit beyond high school

Successful program in Kingston

The City of Kingston, in collaboration with the local school boards started a program in 2010

In its pilot year, students accounted for 28,000 rides; in 2016, that number grew to over 600,000.

University of Waterloo Masters Student studied the Kingston system in 2017 and saw benefits beyond schools (commercial and recreational)

"Impact of Free Transit Passes on Youth Travel Behaviour" by Veronica Lee Sullivan

<https://uwspace.uwaterloo.ca/handle/10012/12199>

Master's Thesis Conclusions

- "...transit pass facilitated more independent trips and helped students participate in more activities." (p iii)
- "The data indicate that 64% of observed grade 9 trips are not school trips." (p 44)
- "The research study concluded that the transit pass was an important stimulant for travel independence for high schools students and the program could be applied to other mid-sized North American municipalities." (p iii)

Federation of Canadian Municipalities supports

Implementation guide for free transit for students is available at:

<https://fcm.ca/sites/default/files/documents/resources/guide/guidebook-engaging-students-to-increase-public-transit-ridership-gmf.pdf>

“Engaging students to increase public transit ridership

A guide for using city–school partnership to inspire youth to choose sustainable transportation.”

Offset Costs: Other Sponsors

- Burlington Chamber of Commerce?
- Others?